

B R E V I O R A

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A NEW MUREX FROM MATANZAS, CUBA

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Through the kindness of C. J. Finlay of Varadero Beach, and E. H. Monroe of Cárdenas, Cuba, we have received a series of a new *Murex* which was obtained from shell traps set in 100 fathoms in Matanzas Bay, Cuba.

MUREX (MUREX) FINLAYI, new species

Figures 1-3

Description. Shell reaching 93 mm. ($3\frac{3}{4}$ inches) in length, rather solid in structure and moderately spinose. Whorls ten and moderately convex. Nuclear whorls glass-like and smooth. Color brownish-yellow to brownish-cream with a few spiral threads of a darker brown which follow the crests of the cords. Spire moderately extended. Suture irregular and deeply indented. Aperture subcircular and slightly oblique. Parietal lip glazed, adherent to the body whorl and fairly thick. Palatal lip crenulated and slightly thickened. Siphonal canal greatly extended, sometimes nearly half the length of the shell, usually curved upward and to the left when viewed dorsally. Two or three previously formed stages of the siphonal canal remain as scale-like spines. The sculpture consists of three equidistant varices, each supporting a rather large shoulder spine and maybe two or three smaller spines between the shoulder and the base of the shell. The varices on each whorl are more or less aligned with the varices on the whorl above. Between the varices there are two to four axial ridges which are strongly nodulose. Spiral sculpture consisting of numerous thread-like cords. The varices are formed by two arched plates, the plates on the aperture side being somewhat smaller, the outer (first formed) leaving a flange or

web-like ridge as a crest on the varix. This is usually broken away on the early varices or remains as a series of small blade-like spines.

Measurements

length	width	whorls	
87.0 mm.	30.0 mm.	10	Holotype
93.0	31.0	10	Paratype
85.0	33.0	10	Paratype
82.5	34.0	10	Paratype

Types. Holotype, Museum of Comparative Zoology no. 189939 from shell trap, Matanzas Bay, Cuba, in 100 fathoms. Paratypes from the same locality in the Museum of Comparative Zoology and the collections of C. J. Finlay and E. H. Monroe.

Remarks. This species appears to be rather closely related to both *Murex antillarum* Hinds and *Murex beauii* Fischer and Bernardi. From *M. antillarum* it differs by having fewer and much larger axial costae, having fewer spines, and in possessing the webbing along the varices and the greatly extended siphonal canal. From *M. beauii* it differs by having fewer and much larger axial costae, shorter spines and not having the extensive webbing which characterizes *M. beauii*. This present new species may also be related to *M. aguayoi* Clench and Farfante but it differs from *aguayoi* by being larger, having the diffused brownish-yellow coloration, fewer spines, larger axial costae and by having the webbing on the varices.

The development of the webbing and the greatly extended siphonal canal probably allows these mollusks to exist on a rather soft muddy bottom.

The subgenus *Murex* in which this new species is included, is a very complex group and of very wide distribution in nearly all tropical and south temperate seas.